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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

4 Feb. 1974

EAST GERMANY

More Checks on the Autobahn?

According to press reports, the East German police again carried out stringent checks of transit traffic on the Hof-Berlin autobahn on February 1. The police told travellers they were looking for Soviet or Czechoslovak deserters. The West Berlin police, however, were reported to "know nothing" about the checks, and a customs official said that questioning of travellers had not produced any confirmation of the reports.

East German negotiator Nier is to meet this week with his West German counterpart Gaus to discuss how the exchange of information on autobahn incidents can be improved. [REDACTED]

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HUNGARY

Two Germanies

Foreign Trade Minister Biro returned from Bonn on Saturday and revealed that the two sides hope to conclude a 10-year economic cooperation agreement this September. Biro was guardedly optimistic about bilateral economic relations and referred to the "known problem" caused by Bonn's membership in the EC.

Meanwhile, East German Premier Sindermann concluded his two-day visit to Budapest before Biro returned home. A communique claims that the talks focused on economic and scientific-technological cooperation, but no new agreements were mentioned. Party leader Kadar ended his customary January vacation (he has not appeared in public since December 23) and received Sindermann on February 1. [REDACTED]

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Party Economic Conference

A two-day conference of party secretaries in major factories apparently discussed implementation of the new

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cadre policies at the enterprise level. Arch reformer Rezso Nyers chaired the first day's session, but Arpad Pullai, a conservative critic of the reforms, presided the next day. Party secretary Pullai apparently is the "action officer" for implementation of the new cadre policies. The gathering heard reports on the amendment of certain economic regulators, which are scheduled to be implemented at the start of the next 5-year plan (1976-80), and improving management performance. The latter undoubtedly focused on the delicate subjects of intra-factory relationships in general and party-management relations in particular. 25X1

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Talks Begin on US-Czechoslovak Exchanges Agreement

Talks on an agreement regarding cultural, scientific and technical exchanges opened in Prague on February 1. In their opening statement, the Czechoslovaks saw no major problems in the US draft. They said, however, that they would like separate agreements for cultural and scientific matters, explaining that this was required by their internal bureaucratic structure. 25X1

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